

CITY-COUNTY PARKS BOARD

MINUTES

November 5, 2014

City-County Building, room 426

CALL TO ORDER

11:31 A.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Payne, Jane Kollmeyer, John Carter, Melissa Lewis, Ross Johnson. Pat Doyle was excused.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

City Commissioner Andres Haladay

County Commissioner Andy Hunthausen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Craig Marr, Amy Teegarden, Liz Jones, Matt Heimel, Carol Kirkland

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND REVIEW OF AGENDA

A quorum was present.

CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

The October 1, 2014, minutes were approved as presented.

COMMENTS FROM PERSONS PRESENT:

PRESENTATIONS –

DISCUSSION ITEMS Standing Items: proposed regional park district: Amy gave a brief summary of the presentation of the Phase 2 planning to the Jefferson County Commission. The presentation was well received, and comments were made that Jefferson County was considering forming a parks board. Jefferson County did pass a parks bond in the recent election. They will attend the joint commission work session in Helena on December 4.

Amy reported on the park congregation issues of vandalism, litter, and criminal mischief. The issues were discussed in a meeting with the police, YMCA, and city manager. There have also been calls about Memorial, Lincoln, and Northwest with discussion of park hours, curfew, and cameras as possible solutions. The behaviors are difficult to enforce if the police do not witness it. If the congregants are moved out of parks, they will go somewhere else. The current areas are higher visibility for the police. The skateboarders are being labeled as the troublemakers, but they are not necessarily the problem. The Memorial Park group split up and has been congregating at Centennial. One suggestion was made to meet with the groups next spring and have a conversation. The trash at both parks is a symptom of broader problems. With parks staff having to do trash daily pickup, it is taking away from other more important work. John reported video cameras have helped contain the gathering but not litter at school parking lots. There will continue to be talks with the police. There are thoughts to try to get buy in from the congregants for better behavior.

ACTION ITEMS – Election of Officers: Jane nominated and John seconded a motion to nominate Melissa as chair. Motion carried unanimously. John moved and Jane seconded a motion to nominate Pat as vice chair. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

CITY – Amy noted Missoula County's passage of a parks and trails bond. She also reported Helena's work on ADA accessibility and the self-evaluation plan. Commissioner Hunthausen was unsure if any plan was being developed for Lewis and Clark County but was going to ask. Partner groups with the city also have to make ADA accommodations. John noted the school district is also affected by the laws. Andy suggested getting a copy of Missoula's bond plan package. Amy will contact the Missoula parks and rec director.

COUNTY – Matt reported there are several subdivision applications in process. He noted the conservation easement program has been overhauled and shortened. The Johnson easement is still progressing.

HOLMAC – Jane reported 50 signs have been placed on trails by the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). She also noted the new bridge at the golf course on the east side of Helena off Colonial Drive. Amy noted it was ADA compliant. Jane suggested the Nordic Ski Club to maintain the trails out there for cross country skiing.

LINCOLN – Nyle reported the new Lincoln Parks Board is getting organized, and Hooper Park has been winterized.

RECREATION – Liz reported the utility bill insert for skating is in process, and she is getting ready to hire for skating. She and Amy met with a triathlon organization for an all-women event in the spring. The skateboard academy is dormant for now.

MAINTENANCE – Craig reported normal fall maintenance wrapup with irrigation blowouts nearly done. Frontier Fun Town has been restrained. A big tree in front of the Rialto was removed and the area repaired. Two of his staff are doing playground safety audits. Two new playgrounds have been ordered for Barney and Waukesha to go up in the spring. There continues to be a rash of litter and graffiti at Memorial and the skatepark. The parks are being fertilized and doing core aeration at Centennial to try to revive it. The pool has been winterized and sand replaced in the water filters. Staff is also working to repair a water line for the lazy river. He and Amy are going through the capital replacement plan with the finance office. Letters were sent out to homeowners about the city removing bad trees and requesting their buy in to take care of new ones that will be planted. He is also working on specifications for a new bucket truck. The bike park had another volunteer day. Adults with radio control cars also coming out

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and not getting out of the way of the bikes and tearing up the track. The Centennial trail project is also progressing.

FAIR BOARD – Dave reported the board is working on ways to raise money and come up with a list of priority projects. Melissa reported she has joined Friends of the Fairgrounds as a way to support improvements. She said the dues entitle a family to free tickets and a parking pass for the fair. The board is working on providing the ability for online payments.

PLAYABLE PLAYGROUND –

SCHOOL DISTRICT – John reported a workshop on potential bond projects. The board is considering purchase of six acres north of Warren School to add onto parkland. There is now also a safe route for kids to walk to school in that area.

BIKE HELENA –

OTHER -

COMMUNICATIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (BOARD MEMBERS):

NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE: December 3, 2014

FUTURE DISCUSSION ITEMS: Peanut Park; Sixth Ward Garden Park

ADJOURN – 12:20 P.M.

Carol Kirkland
Recorder